

Strategic Plan for the Elimination of Tuberculosis in Wisconsin

"Careful attention must be paid to ensuring that TB control programs become what they need to be rather than maintained as they have been." - Institute of Medicine report *Ending Neglect: The Elimination of Tuberculosis in the United States*.

Purpose

In 1999, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory Council for the Elimination of Tuberculosis (ACET) renewed their commitment to tuberculosis elimination as first published in the 1989 document *A Strategic Plan for the Elimination of Tuberculosis in the United States*. This plan established a national goal of tuberculosis (TB) elimination, defined as a case rate of less than 1 case / 1,000,000 population by 2010, with an interim target of 3.5 cases / 100,000 population by the year 2000. Although Wisconsin's tuberculosis incidence rate of 2.1/100,000 population is below the interim target rate, that rate has generally not changed in over 10 years. The Wisconsin tuberculosis case rate would need to decline by 95% over the next 10 years (9-10% per year) to achieve the TB elimination goal of 1 case per 1,000,000 by 2010. Given the past stability of the case rate in Wisconsin, a plan of action was deemed necessary to facilitate that decrease.

The purpose of the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Division of Public Health, Bureau of Communicable Diseases, Wisconsin Tuberculosis Program (hereafter referred to as the Wisconsin TB Program) is to oversee, manage, and facilitate activities that assure identification and proper treatment of persons with tuberculosis, and to prevent transmission of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* to others. Specific responsibilities include the following:

- Maintain a comprehensive statewide surveillance system to determine the extent of tuberculosis and monitor for changes in trends.
- Manage grants, contracts, and payments for drugs and therapy-related services delivered at the local level.
- Provide technical assistance, consultation, professional education, and training to local health departments (LHDs) and other affiliated agencies.
- Develop and distribute professional educational materials to local agencies and health professionals.
- Implement policies and procedures for the surveillance, investigation, prevention, and control of tuberculosis.
- Establish and maintain specialized screening, education, and intervention programs for persons considered at high risk for tuberculosis.

- Conduct special epidemiologic investigations and studies of significance to the prevention and control of tuberculosis.
- Apply epidemiologic principles to the prevention and control of morbidity and mortality related to tuberculosis in Wisconsin.

The local health department (LHD) is responsible for TB patient management, receiving technical support from the Wisconsin TB Program. All LHDs provide basic tuberculosis services, with the City of Milwaukee Health Department providing comprehensive tuberculosis services in a public TB clinic. Basic tuberculosis services include tuberculin skin testing, patient assessment and referral for medical care, delivery of medication, contact investigation, and directly observed therapy.

The Wisconsin TB Program recognizes that involvement of local and state government agencies, private health care providers, community clinics, community-based organizations, and health care facilities will be needed to achieve the goal of tuberculosis elimination. The development of this plan included participation from representatives of the various public and private partners and includes action steps for all of these partners. Major responsibility for implementing the plan is attributed to the Wisconsin TB Program and LHDs.

The following individuals aided in the development of this plan:

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The Wisconsin Tuberculosis Program is responsible for the distribution of the Strategic Plan and the latest national information on tuberculosis. LHDs, in turn, are expected to share this document and the latest national information with their community providers.

In 1998, the American Lung Association of Wisconsin (ALA/W) conducted a review of the Wisconsin TB Program using the expertise of outside reviewers. Many of the recommendations of the review team were incorporated into this plan.

Value Statement

The Division of Public Health, Wisconsin Tuberculosis Program and partners in community health will foster well being through tuberculosis control and prevention in the state of Wisconsin by methods that:

- Ensure the availability of tuberculosis treatment services for all individuals with infection or disease and
- Enhance coordination of efforts through education and communication.

Goal

The following strategic plan, covering 2000-2002, has been developed to reduce the occurrence of tuberculosis disease in Wisconsin by ensuring the availability of tuberculosis treatment services for individuals with infection or disease and preventing further tuberculosis infection in Wisconsin.

Organization

The *Strategic Plan for the Elimination of Tuberculosis in Wisconsin* (the Plan) includes action steps to be completed at the state and local level, by public and private partners. It is not expected that every partner will complete every action step. Action steps should be undertaken with consideration of the following priorities:

1. diagnosing all TB cases and ensuring that patients complete appropriate therapy
2. enhancing the effectiveness of contact investigation activities and ensuring the prompt identification and completion of treatment of contacts with latent TB infection (LTBI) and
3. expanding the testing and treatment of latent TB infection to persons in other high-risk populations .

Partners that successfully perform the highest-priority activities and have declining morbidity should begin developing and implementing plans for the next level of priority activities, based on local epidemiologic findings. (CDC. Essential components of a tuberculosis prevention and control program. MMWR 1995; 44(No. RR-11):3.)

The Plan is divided into the following four areas:

- Improving Existing Surveillance Methods
- Improving Disease Treatment Methods
- Improving Case Prevention Methods
- Improving Program Evaluation Methods

Within each focus, goals, objectives, and action steps are organized in order of decreasing priority

Evaluation components are incorporated as objectives into each goal. The topic “Improving Program Evaluation Methods” includes broader goals for evaluation of state and local Wisconsin TB Program performance.

Following the body of the Plan are three Appendices. Appendix 1 addresses Wisconsin’s performance toward meeting national objectives. Appendix 2 addresses the methods that will be used to calculate outcomes and monitor progress toward meeting Strategic Plan objectives. Appendix 3 is the Glossary of terms used throughout the document.

Limitations

In the face of declining tuberculosis rates nationwide, resources for tuberculosis elimination may become scarcer. It will be the responsibility of all parties interested in tuberculosis elimination to advocate for sufficient funding and creative problem solving in order to conduct necessary activities. Data collection and analyses suggested in the Plan will assist advocacy efforts.

This Plan is intended to be a dynamic, evolving document. Components of lower priority activities are left vague with the understanding that refinement will be an ongoing process.